

From: Kevin Langdon
To: U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division
Date: 12/23/01 10:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To those in charge of the Microsoft settlement negotiations:

I believe that nothing that has been done to date--specifically including the abandoned plan to separate Microsoft's operating system business from its applications business--has gone to the root of the problem, which is the existence of Microsoft's monopoly of the operating system business. This is not just market dominance but a situation in which meaningful competition for non-niche-market operating system business is effectively impossible.

Given the widely-reported chaos in the negotiations to date, it may be time to introduce a new solution.

There is a remedy that would be highly effective. It would make room for competitors in the operating system market while also leaving Microsoft viable competitive strategies.

What I propose is simply that DOS and Windows (through 98), including all source code, be placed into the public domain. Microsoft would be free to develop its Windows 2000 and XP lines, but other companies would be free to introduce competing developments from the common base of Windows98.

Please give this idea serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Langdon